



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Web site: [www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov)

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## ***NEWS RELEASE***

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### **Conservation Applications Urged**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM-The USDA-New Mexico Natural Resources Conservation Service has announced that individuals who wish to apply for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) during FY2008 should submit their applications at the very earliest time possible. NRCS New Mexico will be grouping the applications and starting to process these groups beginning early October through November 2, 2007. This valued program provides technical and financial assistance to local farmers, ranchers, and other producers for conservation improvements selected for funding under the program.

“NRCS is taking the step to move forward with the FY 2008 program now, because we face several unknowns,” said Dennis Alexander, state conservationist. “We are doing our best to avoid any delays that could occur as a new Farm Bill, and the regulations that will be necessary to implement it, are being instituted. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of getting applications in as soon as possible.”

To proceed, NRCS is currently accepting applications for the FY 2008 EQIP program year. Applications may be submitted to your local NRCS field office. Again, to be considered for FY2008 funding, applications must be in by November 2, 2007. NRCS New Mexico anticipates that it will have funding obligated to selected applicants by December 31, 2007.

NRCS works with the agricultural producers to identify resource concerns, develop conservation plans, implement various conservation practices, and administers contracts.

The program is available to individuals with working farms and ranches. Individual producers on Tribal lands, and Tribal governments, are eligible to apply. Agricultural producers with federal land grazing permits are also eligible to apply, and if selected for a contract, may receive financial assistance to implement approved practices on their federal allotment.

The first step in receiving assistance is to contact your local NRCS field office. Additional information is available at [www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP](http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/EQIP)

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